

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03103 01 OF 02 301338Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 IO-13 EUR-12 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00
OMB-01 COME-00 /095 W
-----008269 301405Z /46

O R 301200Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4428

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3103

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV SOPN LE

SUBJ: BEIRUT REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. SUMMARY: BEIRUT MEDIA ARE GIVING HEAVY COVERAGE TO STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SECRETARY HODDING CARTER III AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, WHICH THEY GENERALLY SEEM TO REGARD AS WELCOME WARNING TO THE ISRAELIS, BUT EDITORIAL COMMENT SO FAR ONLY FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE "IKE." END SUMMARY.

2. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR JUNE 28 ARTICLE BASED ON AFP FROM WASHINGTON, "US WARNING TO ISRAEL," GIVES EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM JUNE 27 STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN CARTER, HIGHLIGHTING US POSITION THAT ISRAEL MUST NOT EXCLUDE ANY TERRITORIES FROM NEGOTIATING PROCESS, AND MENTION OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. PAPER CLAIMED SECRETARY OF STATE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03103 01 OF 02 301338Z

VANCE WAS EVIDENTLY HIMSELF THE AUTHOR OF THE HODDING CARTER STATEMENT. L'ORIENT JUNE 29 FRONTPAGED ISRAELI REACTION TO STATEMENT, AS REPORTED FROM JERUSALEM BY AFP, INCLUDING QUOTE FROM ISRAELI COMMUNIQUE THAT "...THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GOING BEYOND THE MISSION OF GOOD OFFICES." INSIDE STORY REPORTED "UPROAR" IN ISRAEL AND ISRAELI STATEMENTS UNDERLINING ALLEGED IMPORTANCE OF THE WEST BANK FOR

SECURITY PURPOSES. STORY NOTED THAT BEGIN AS WELL AS SEVERAL ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS TOOK CONSIDERABLE EXCEPTION TO TIMING OF THE STATEMENT. PAPER REPORTED FAVORABLE EGYPTIAN AND JORDANIAN REACTIONS, AND, ON JUNE 30, HIGHLIGHTED DINITZ STATEMENT ON "FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL.

3. RIGHTIST LE REVEIL JUNE 28 REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE HODDING CARTER STATEMENT AND, ON JUNE 29, HIGHLIGHTED ISRAELI REACTION WITH STORY INSIDE PAPER, DATED TEL AVIV, GAVE FULL AIRING TO ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE, BEGINNING WITH HEADLINE, "ISRAELIS SURPRISED: WHY HAS THE USA CHOSEN THIS MOMENT?", NOTING STATEMENT FOUR DAYS EARLIER BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN THAT EVERYTHING WAS NEGOTIABLE. REVEIL JUNE 30 AGAIN HIGHLIGHTS ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE WITH STORY FROM TEL AVIV FOCUSING ON DINITZ STATEMENT THAT US-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES ARE "FUNDAMENTAL," NEWS STORY ON EGYPTIAN AND PALESTINIAN REACTIONS WAS HEADLINED, "PLO STILL NOT SATISFIED."

4. ENGLISH LANGUAGE "IKE" (AFFILIATED WITH MONDAY MORNING; MODERATE PALESTINIAN) JUNE 28 LEAD STORY, HEADLINED "US RAPS ISRAEL ON WEST BANK POLICY," WAS BASED ON AP FROM WASHINGTON. NEWSPAPER INSIDE CARRIED FULL TEXT OF HODDING CARTER'S STATEMENT AS TRANSMITTED BY REUTERS. IKE JUNE 29 AGAIN CARRIED LEAD STORY FROM AP WASHINGTON, HEADLINED "US: JERUSALEM MUST BE NEGOTIATED," WITH SUBTITLE "FAIR SHAKE DEMANDED FOR PALESTINIANS." STORY ON ATHERTON STATEMENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03103 01 OF 02 301338Z

NEWSPAPER EDITORS HIGHLIGHTED STATEMENT THAT, IN THE EYES OF THE ARABS, ACCEPTING EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL "IS ALREADY A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE." PAPER ALSO REPORTED ISRAELI REACTION TO HODDING CARTER STATEMENT, AND SAID, "THE COMMUNIQUE APPEARED TO UNDERLINE ISRAELI FEARS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SEEKING TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION ON ISRAEL." STORY HOWEVER ALSO REPORTED MEETING OF SECRETARY VANCE WITH RABBI SCHINDLER, NOTING THAT SCHINDLER SAYS HE WAS ASSURED BY VANCE THAT THE USG HAD NO PLAN TO IMPOSE A PEACE SETTLEMENT, AND NOTED STATEMENT BY ISRAELI AMBASSADOR DINITZ TO EFFECT THAT US AND ISRAEL DO HAVE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. WRAPUP ARTICLE ON REACTIONS IN ISRAEL AND IN ARAB COUNTRIES HEADED "CONGRATULATIONS MIX WITH ANGER, SUSPICION." IN ADDITION TO ISRAELI, JORDANIAN, AND EGYPTIAN REACTIONS, IKE NOTES COMMENTS BY VOICE OF PALESTINE RADIO CALLING US STATEMENT MERE "KITE-FLYING," NOTING THAT US SIMULTANEOUSLY AGREED TO NEW ARMS GIFT TO ISRAEL, AND COMMENTS BY IRAQI AL-THAWRA, WHICH ACCUSES CARTER ADMINISTRATION OF "...A METHOD OF PROCRASTINATION AND GAINING TIME BY KEEPING THE BALL ROLLING BETWEEN ONE SIDE AND ANOTHER."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03103 02 OF 02 301356Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 IO-13 EUR-12 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00
COME-00 OMB-01 /095 W
-----008452 301405Z /46

O R 301200Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4429
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3103

5. IKE JUNE 30 EDITORIAL SAID US STATEMENTS THIS WEEK "HAVE BEEN MUSIC TO ARAB EARS," NOTED ATHERTON OBSERVATION THAT ARAB ACCEPTANCE OF PRE-1967 ISRAEL CONSTITUTES ITSELF A MAJOR TERRITORIAL CONCESSION, AND SAID THAT ATHERTON STATEMENT "HAS, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A DECADE, DECLARED THE STATUS OF JERUSALEM OPEN TO DISCUSSION." EDITORIAL HOWEVER ALSO SAID, "THE ARABS ARE NOT TAKEN BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S APPARENT DETERMINATION TO FIGHT THE ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL. NOR ARE THEY PLEASED WITH THE RECENT AMERICAN DECISION TO POUR 115 MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF ARMS INTO TEL AVIV," AND SAID, "THOSE AND OTHER JARRING NOTES HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS...AS TO THE SINCERITY OF THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF EVEN-HANDEDNESS." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS WILL TELL THE ARABS WHETHER THEIR CONFIDENCE (IN THE US) HAS BEEN MISPLACED."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03103 02 OF 02 301356Z

6. "THE MIDDLE EAST REPORTER" (A PRESS DOCUMENTATION SERVICE) JUNE 28 SAYS THAT THE USG NOW "HAS FOR THE FIRST TIME ON

RECORD TAKEN A CLEAR-CUT STAND ON THE ARAB TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL," BUT ALSO NOTED THAT HODDING CARTER STATEMENT HAS "CREATED SOME PUZZLEMENT BECAUSE IT CAME ON HEELS OF THE NEWS THAT MR. CARTER WAS ASKING CONGRESS FOR \$115 MILLION WORTH OF MILITARY AID TO THE JEWISH STATE." REPORTER JUNE 29 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ATHERTON STATEMENT AND NOTED THAT REACTIONS FROM RIYADH AND DAMASCUS WERE FAVORABLE, BUT THAT VOICE OF PALESTINE IN CAIRO REGARDED STATEMENTS AS COVER UP FOR NEW US ARMS SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL.

7. BEIRUT ARAB PRESS LIKEWISE NOTES APPARENTLY CONTRADICTORY ASPECTS OF US POLICY. AS SHARQ JUNE 28 HEADLINED "YESTERDAY WEAPONS, TODAY A WARNING," RIGHT-WING AL AHRAR SAID US AND ISRAEL WERE PLAYING A "CAT AND MOUSE GAME." LEFT-WING AL MUHARRIR NOTED STATEMENTS COME AT SAME TIME AS DECISION TO SELL MORE WEAPONS TO ISRAEL. ON THE OTHER HAND, ANWAR JUNE 29 EDITORIALIZED THAT "THE STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT IS A PUBLIC PRELUDE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S WAR AGAINST THE CAMPAIGN WAGED BY ISRAEL THROUGH THE CONGRESS." MOST LEADING BEIRUT ARABIC PAPERS JUNE 29 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO ATHERTON STATEMENT BASED ON WIRE SERVICES, (FULL TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE), WITHOUT COMMENT. AN NAHAR HOWEVER DESCRIBED ATHERTON STATEMENT AS "FIRST US DECLARATION OF ITS KIND."

8. POLITICAL REACTIONS. SAEB SALAM, AFTER RECEIVING THE US AMBASSADOR JUNE 28 TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT WAS IMPORTANT, "BECAUSE IT DOTS THE I'S REGARDING THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH SOME PEOPLE BELIEVED IS CHANGING," AND, ACCORDING TO MUHARRIR JUNE 30, HE SAID STATEMENTS HAD DISPELLED AMBIGUITIES PREVALENT SINCE ISRAELI ELECTION. RACHID KARAME TOLD MUHARRIR, "SOME PROSPECTS ARE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03103 02 OF 02 301356Z

THE OFFING, AND I AM OPTIMISTIC." ISLAMIC GROUP MEMBER NESSIB BERBIR IS QUOTED IN L'ORIENT JUNE 30, "...THE AMERICANS AT LAST HAVE REALIZED THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE WHICH THEY HAD TAKEN TOWARDS ARAB PROBLEMS," BUT HE ADDED THAT THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE "DOES NOT YET JUSTIFY ANY OPTIMISM FOR THE FUTURE."

9. COMMENT: BEIRUT PRESS COMMENTARY ON HODDING CARTER AND ATHERTON STATEMENTS SO FAR IS LIMITED, BUT TREATMENT OF STORIES SUGGESTS HIGHLY FAVORABLE ATTITUDE, NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS LE REVEIL, CLOSE TO PHALANGE AND NLP, WHICH HAS CHOSEN TO HIGHLIGHT ISRAELI PERSPECTIVE ON RATHER THAN CONTENT OF US STATEMENTS.
PARKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT03103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770233-1120
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977065/aaaaadmj.tel
Line Count: 220
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fbc87c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2125255
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT REACTION TO U.S. STATEMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST
TAGS: PDEV, SOPN, LE, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbj://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fbc87c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009